

STORMWATER BMPs RESTAURANT & FOOD INDUSTRY

Bakeries, Food Producers & Distributors, Grocery Stores, and Restaurants

Restaurants and food establishments may not be aware of activities that could negatively impact our local streams and rivers. The by-products of food-related businesses can harm water quality and stream life if they enter the storm drain system. People live downstream of your restaurant. In addition, storm water runoff in Murfreesboro flows to the Stones River, then to the Percy Priest Reservoir. The reservoir is used for drinking water supply.

Food businesses can cause harm in several ways: putting food waste in leaky dumpsters; not cleaning up outdoor food or chemical spills; washing outdoor spills into the storm drain system; dumping washwater outdoors. Other routine activities such as cleaning oily vents and operating and maintaining delivery trucks are sources of pollution, unless proper precautions are taken. Motor oil that has dripped onto parking lots from business and customer vehicles is washed into the river via the storm drain system. Oil and grease that makes its way into the streams can clog fish gills and block oxygen from entering the water. Toxins found in oven and floor cleaners can, in high concentrations, also harm aquatic life.



Here are a few simple practices you can follow to assure a healthy environment for both your restaurant and our local waterways:



Recycle grease and oil. Keep lids closed on tallow bins. Cover grease storage area. Dispose of waste grease at sufficient frequency – at least weekly – and recycle if possible. Don't pour it into sinks, floor drains, or onto a parking lot or street. Pouring grease and food scraps down the sink increases the likelihood of clogging plumbing pipes and backing up your sewer.

For information on installing a grease interceptor in your business, contact the Murfreesboro Water & Sewer Department at 848-3200.



Pour washwater into a janitorial or mop sink.
Don't pour onto a parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street.



Keep dumpster area clean and lid closed.

Don't fill it with liquid waste or hose it out. Cover area if possible. Clean and sweep dumpster area daily. Bag and seal food waste (no liquids) before placing in dumpster. Keep the lids closed. Report overfilled dumpsters for corrective action. If chemicals are stored outside, area should be covered from rain.

(continued on reverse)

Use dry methods for spill cleanup (sweeping, cat litter, etc.) Don't hose down spills.



Clean floormats, filters and garbage cans in a mop sink, floor drain or proper outside area. Don't wash them in a parking lot, alley, sidewalk or street.

Minimize wastes.

- Use non-disposable products. Serve food on ceramic dishware rather than paper, plastic or Styrofoam and use cloth napkins rather than paper ones. If you must use disposable products, use paper instead of Styrofoam.
 - Buy the least toxic products available.
 - Look for "nontoxic," "non-petroleum based," "free of ammonia, phosphates, dye or perfume," or "readily biodegradable" on the label.
 - Avoid chlorinated compounds, petroleum distillates, phenols and formaldehyde.
 - Use water-based products.
 - Look for and use "recycled" and "recyclable" containers.
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- **Storage containers should be regularly inspected and kept in good condition.**
 - Place materials inside rigid, durable, water- tight and rodent-proof containers with tight fitting covers.
 - Store materials inside a building or build a covered area that is paved and designed to prevent runoff from entering storm drains.
 - Place plastic sheeting over materials or containers and secure the cover with ties and weighted objects. (Not appropriate for storing liquids).
 - **Inform employees and clients.** Employees can help prevent pollution when you include water quality training in employee orientation and reviews.
 - **Post BMPs where employees and customers can see them.** Showing customers you protect the Stones River is good public relations.
 - **Explain BMPs to other food businesses** through your merchant associations or chambers of commerce.
 - **Volunteer to label storm drains near the workplace.** Raise both employee and customer awareness by labeling storm drains. Contact the number below and ask about storm drain labeling, or e-mail roberthaley@murfreesborotn.gov .

Web Site http://murfreesborotn.gov/government/water_sewer/stormwater.htm

If you see water pollution in Murfreesboro, call us.

Phone
615-848-3200

